



3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Soldiers land their F470 Zodiacs off Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Nov. 29.

# ‘Raiders’ conduct waterborne ops off coast

Story and photos by

**STAFF SGT. ARMANDO LIMON**

3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS — Soldiers aboard raiding craft paddled toward the pristine shores of eastern Oahu to quietly infiltrate and collect reconnaissance intel, and then quietly depart, during waterborne training, Nov. 29.

This advanced boat training was conducted by Soldiers assigned to Comanche Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, “Raiders,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, using F470 Zodiacs (combat rubber raiding craft).

“The training we’re trying to instill in the Soldiers is familiarization with the Zodiacs,” said Staff Sgt. Joe Bazzano, a team leader assigned to Comanche Troop, 3-4th Cav. Regt., “so they’re comfortable to go out and execute infiltration and exfiltration methods via the Zodiac.”

For many of the Soldiers in Comanche Troop, boat operations was an introduction to a reconnaissance method.

“It’s showing them how you set the boats up, showing them the (standard operating procedure),” Bazzano said, “teaching them how to operate the engine, because a lot of the Soldiers never operated engines or a boat before for that matter.

“Overall, at the end day, have them familiarized with the boat,” he continued. “Not necessarily everyone is an expert at it, but now everyone can get on a Zodiac boat and feel comfortable, and know how to operate the basics.”

Capt. Richard Hood, commander, Comanche Troop, 3-4th Cav. Regt., stated boat operation training was normally performed via aircraft to conduct helocasts. However, the emphasis of the training was on motorized watercraft.

“We just acquired boat motors and we’re using them for the first time,” Hood said. “What’s happening is, we’re taking some classes this morning on how to utilize those motors.”

Comanche Troop prepared its boats by learning how to properly tie the gear down in the center of the Zodiacs,



A Soldier assigned to the 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, ensures his flippers are sized correctly at MCTAB, Nov. 29.

and ensuring life vests were properly attached and flippers were fitted before pushing out to sea.

The troopers conducted a practical exercise by going about a kilometer from shore and performing boat operations as a maneuver recon element toward the beach, Hood said.



Scout swimmers assigned to the 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, swim a kilometer to the beach at MCTAB, on Nov. 29.

“Scout swimmers will go in and swim that first kilometer, recon the beach and just inside the beach, establish some markings where boats need to land – the boats will land,” he said. “The rest of the Soldiers in the boats (are) obviously not as tired as the scout swimmers, so scout swimmers secure the boats while the rest of the troop moves further inland to conduct a reconnaissance mission. Then scout swimmers prep the boats again for exfiltration.”

Once the mission was accomplished, the troopers were to head back out to sea with their intelligence, without getting compromised by the enemy further inland.

Spc. Wavon Parker, an infantryman assigned to Comanche Troop, 3-4th Cav. Regt., said the training went well.

“They taught us how to fix the engines,” Parker said, “how to maneuver in the boats, which is the coxswain; that’s the (team leader’s) job. The (assistant team leader) will be doing the same thing as well.

“The 1,000-meter swim is what I like most about the training,” he said. “It’s awesome and a great experience – something that was challenging and showed a little bit of adversity, but it pushed you. The Soldiers did well, and it’s probably the best training I’ve had so far.”



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, set off into the water with their F470 Zodiacs, or combat rubber raiding crafts, at MCTAB, on Nov. 29.



Spc. Adam Gonzalez, an infantryman assigned to 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, ties knots on an F470 Zodiac.



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, experience their F470 Zodiac capsizing just before approaching the beach at MCTAB on Nov. 29.



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# First U.S. units respond after 3 years of conflict

Courtesy of  
**U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY**

One hundred years ago today, U.S. forces were mobilizing across the country. The U.S. Army would swell to over 4 million Soldiers, with 2 million heading overseas.

The U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and the fledgling U.S. Army Air Service were also growing.

Following America's entry into World War I on April 6, 1917, the situation facing the Allied nations was grim as they fought against Germany.

1917 was a year of near disaster for the Allies on all European fronts. American forces were sent primarily to France to bolster the Western Front, supporting French and British forces until a robust U.S. Army could be grown and trained to take sole responsibility for a segment of the front.

A French offensive in April, with which the British cooperated, was a failure, and was followed by widespread mutinies in the French armies. The British maintained strong pressure on their segment of



the Western Front throughout the year, but British attacks on Messines Ridge on June 7, at Ypres on July 31, and at Cambrai, Nov. 20 through Dec. 4, took a severe toll of British fighting strength and failed in their main objective of capturing German submarine bases along the North Sea.

Three U.S. Army engineer regiments - the 11th, 12th and 14th - were engaged in construction activity behind the British lines at Cambrai in November, when they were unexpectedly called upon to go into the front lines during an emergency.

They became the first American Expeditionary Force units to meet the enemy as

1917 drew to a close, marking the end of three-and-a-half years of bloody conflict on a scale the world had never experienced before.



Courtesy of Library of Congress  
**Two U.S. Soldiers run past the remains of two German soldiers toward a bunker. Note that this may well be a staged propaganda image. Photograph was taken circa 1917-1918.**

**Q:** Why does the Hawaii Army Weekly publish courts-martial findings?

**A:** The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate releases the results of recent courts-martial for publication to inform the community of military justice trends and to deter future misconduct by Soldiers.

## Specialist gets reduced to E-3 at SCM for battery

**WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD** — The 25th Infantry Division Staff Judge Advocate has provided the following courts-martial.

On Nov. 30, at a special court-martial convened, here, Spc. Kirk Giese, U.S. Army, was convicted by a military panel composed of officers and enlisted members, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of assault consummated by a battery in violation of Article 128, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The accused was acquitted of one specification of communicating a threat and of two specifications of assault consummated by a battery in violation of Articles 134 and 128, UCMJ.

The members sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-3.

**Federal Convictions.** In addition to forfeiture of pay (either adjudged or by operation of law), confinement and a punitive discharge, a Soldier will also have a federal conviction that the Soldier must report when filling out a job application. A federal conviction strips a Soldier of many rights, such as the right to purchase and maintain firearms and voting.



Shown here are two World War I recruiting posters.

Courtesy graphics

## ALIGHT WITH HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Photos by Karen A. Iwamoto, Oahu Publications



**Left — Gen. Robert B. Brown (right), commander of U.S. Army-Pacific, and Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Jones (left) of USARPAC, congratulate representatives of Island Palm Communities for taking first place in the Fort Shafter Holiday Card Lane contest on Nov. 30.**

**FORT SHAFTER** — The community, here, gathered for its annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at historic Palm Circle on Nov. 30.

The family friendly event, hosted by U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and organized by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, included free cookies and hot chocolate from Island Palm Communities and a visit from Santa.

Gen. Robert B. Brown, commander of U.S. Army-Pacific, and Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Jones, senior enlisted adviser, USARPAC, wished the crowd a happy and safe holiday season and congratulated the winners of the 2017 Holiday Lane Card contest.

The contest, in which various U.S. Army Hawaii units and organizations decorate 4-foot by 8-foot sheets of plywood, is a holiday tradition.

Island Palm Communities won first place with its Hawaii-themed display depicting a palm tree decorated for Christmas on a sandy beach. This year's second place winner was the 545th Transportation Company, 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, with a display paying homage to Army watercraft.

# Voices of Ohana

Because the holidays are approaching, we wondered,  
**What is your favorite holiday movie?**

By Karen A. Iwamoto, Oahu Publications



“‘The Nightmare Before Christmas’ because it’s not your typical jolly Christmas movie.”

**Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Ervin**  
25th STB, 25th Sust. Bde. (with 11-month old son Jeremiah Ervin Jr.)



“‘Home Alone.’ It’s a tradition for me and my husband to watch it during the holidays.”

**Alice Garcia**  
Army spouse (with 7-month old daughter Camille)



“‘It’s a Wonderful Life.’ We watched it as kids, and it brings back good memories.”

**Sara Parton**  
Army spouse



“‘Elf’ because it’s funny.”

**Francisca Romo**  
10-year-old Army family member



“‘Home Alone’ because the mischievous kid reminds me of myself!”

**Spc. Devin Timmons**  
HHB, 25th ID



# Forces are ready to fight, win, says adviser

LISA FERDINANDO  
DOD News

WASHINGTON — The military’s top enlisted adviser said that on the worst day of his military career, he knew he was in good hands with the U.S. armed forces.

“We were pinned down, under fire, and when (we) called for a quick reaction force, I was not worried about what race, what gender or who the other person was on the other end,” Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell recalled about the events of July 19, 2007.

That day, his patrol came under attack in Iraq; one of his Soldiers, Army Cpl. Brandon Craig, was killed and another was severely wounded.

“I just knew there was an American voice on the other end that said, ‘Sergeant Major, we’re coming to get you’ – and that’s the bottom line, and that’s why the U.S. armed forces is what it is today,” he said.

Troxell and the enlisted service chiefs spoke at a Pentagon press briefing, Nov. 27, following the first day of meetings for the Defense Senior Enlisted Council – an annual executive-level conference to address issues impacting the joint enlisted force.

Troxell was joined by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey; Sgt. Maj. of the



DOD photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dominique A. Pineiro  
**Army Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell (third from left), senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the service senior enlisted advisers, speak to reporters at the Pentagon, Nov. 27. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey is seated on the far left.**

Marine Corps Ronald L. Green; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steven S. Giordano; Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright; and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven W. Cantrell.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for all of us to be here today, all at one time, to talk about the backbone of our armed forces – that being our enlisted force,” he said.

Discussions included policy, enlisted

leader development and personnel readiness, which includes the manning, equipping and training of forces, especially under the ongoing budgetary constraints, he said.

Despite budgetary and other challenges, the U.S. armed forces remain the world’s premier fighting force, the sergeant major said.

“From an overall perspective, we can say that our U.S. armed forces are always

ready to fight and win our nation’s wars,” Troxell said, “but readiness under a resource-constrained environment takes its toll over the years.”

Members across the total force feel the budget constraints, he said. A takeaway from his conversations with troops around the globe is that consistency and predictability – whether in pay and entitlements, or training and operational deployments – are factors in keeping morale high.

Despite the challenges, the military is always ready to fulfill its commitments to the nation, he said.

“We absolutely still, as a U.S. armed force, can defend our homeland and our way of life. We can absolutely meet our alliance commitments and support our partners,” Troxell said. “We absolutely have warfighting advantages in every warfighting domain, specifically in the human domain.”

The services are tasked with the monumental job of manning, training and equipping the force to perform warfighting, peacekeeping and humanitarian tasks, he said.

The men and women who serve, Troxell said, are the most important aspect of the armed forces.

“We know ... without a doubt,” he said.

# Military intelligence mentors teach students cybersecurity

Story and photo by  
**STEVEN P. STOVER**  
Intelligence Security Command

WAHIAWA — Gen. Mark Milley, the 39th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, recently mentioned it would be up to the next generation to figure out how to successfully fight and win the nation’s future conflicts.

“For those of you who are in the military, who are 25 years old or younger ... you’re going to have to lead the way. People my age do not have the answers.”

Soldiers from Detachment Hawaii, 782nd Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion, 500th MI Brigade, based out of Schofield Barracks, are teaching cybersecurity skills to Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from Leilehua High School as part of the nationwide CyberPatriot program.

According to the team’s coach, retired

Army Lt. Col. Nick Spiridiglozzi, the Leilehua High School JROTC senior instructor, “CyberPatriot is the premier high school cyber defense competition in the nation. It teaches students how to secure computers’ networks and all the things associated with it.”

Last year the Leilehua High School CyberPatriot team made it all the way to the CyberPatriot IX National Finals in Baltimore; however, Spiridiglozzi views the CyberPatriot program as more than a competition. He says the program is vital to our national security.

“We don’t have enough people in cybersecurity right now, and these kids we’re training are going to protect this nation,” said Spiridiglozzi. “Also, it gives these kids a career, a vocation, and if they go in that direction, it gives them a lot of knowledge in cyber defense. I feel very strongly that even though I’m retired I’m

still contributing to national defense by training these kids ... at least bringing in the right people to train them.”

Detachment Hawaii has been mentoring the Leilehua High School JROTC CyberPatriot team since the 2015-2016 school year, and the coach and students attribute their success to the Soldiers.

“As far as I’m concerned, they are the best mentors in the nation. They are extremely knowledgeable, motivated. They have so much initiative, and they think out of the box,” said Spiridiglozzi. “That means great training for the students, and without the Detachment, there really is not a successful CyberPatriot program here.

“It all boils down to the mentors,” he continued. “Great kids, but if you don’t have great mentors teaching these stu-

See CYBERSECURITY A-5



**Sgt. Kevin Kang, Detachment Hawaii, 782nd MI Bn., talks to Leilehua High School JROTC cadet Tyler McWilliams about the Linux operating system, Nov. 20.**



# Aspiring humanitarian provides inspiration

**EMILY YEH**  
Regional Health Command-Pacific  
Public Affairs

HONOLULU — As chief of the global health engagement section at Regional Health Command-Pacific, Lt. Col. Derek Licina is responsible for creating opportunities for the medical personnel, here, to support U.S. Army-Pacific and U.S. Pacific Command security cooperation efforts.

“We send teams of subject matter experts to various countries to help build health capability and increase capacity of both military and civilian partners,” said Licina.

That dedication to increasing health capacity in a global arena extends beyond his time on-duty.

Licina’s son, Austin, has also taken notice of his father’s work at RHC-P. Austin embraced his father’s lead and recently embarked on a community project to provide medical equipment to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

“The project is to increase the capability of health care facilities in RMI through the donations of medical equipment via organizations on Oahu,” said Austin.

The final phase of the project took place in early November, when 30 of Austin’s



Photo by Emily Yeh, Regional Health Command-Pacific Public Affairs  
**Lt. Col. Derek Licina and his son, Austin Licina, share a common bond through their community service. Austin embraced his father’s lead with a recent community service project delivering medical equipment to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.**

friends, Boy Scouts Troop members, and family and work associates volunteered to assist with the loading of medical



Photo courtesy of Regional Health Command-Pacific Public Affairs  
**Volunteers join together for a photo after helping load a cargo shipment of medical equipment for delivery to the Republic of the Marshall Islands as part of Austin Licina’s recent community project.**

supplies for shipment. Between the work, and banter, Austin’s persistence and grit created a common community by helping

another community. Licina is proud of his son and hopes Austin’s inspiration becomes infectious.

**More Online**  
To learn more about this project and to listen to Austin and his father talk about the experience, visit RHC-P’s podcast at <https://www.dvidshub.net/audio/50211/aspiring-humanitarian-provides-inspiration-through-community-service-global-health-arena>.

# Military OneSource spotlights ‘Our Promise to You’ resources

**LISA FERDINANDO**  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Around the world, day or night, service members and their families have access to the free, confidential resources at Military OneSource to obtain support in a variety of areas.

Military life can get complicated with its unique challenges, frequent moves, deployments and long separations from family, said Julie Blanks, the acting deputy assistant secretary of defense, military community and family policy.

Those complications can have an impact on force readiness, she said, underscoring the importance of the resources offered through Military OneSource, a Defense Department-funded program.

“Military OneSource has one mission



– to stand ready and serve as the one source connecting service members and their families to their best (military life),” Blanks said.

**“Our Promise to You”**  
As part of its commitment to service members and their families, Erika Slaton, a Military OneSource program analyst, said the program launched the “Our Promise to You” initiative that is featured prominently on the website.

“Our promise is to be that one source that stands ready to assist the military community – giving service members

and their families the expert support and information they need,” she said.

The commitment includes being available 24/7 to service members and their families, Slaton said.

“We have the answers that they can depend on – our sole mission is them.”

Military OneSource offers resources in areas to include deployment support, education and employment, language translation, health and wellness, morale and recreation, relationships and stress management, and resilience tools to include confidential nonmedical counseling, personal finance counseling and MilTax free tax services.

**Support is available 24/7**  
The “Our Promise to You” initiative is aimed at spreading the word about the myriad of resources available to

service members and their families, Slaton said, pointing out that while Military OneSource is effective, research indicates there is a lack of awareness of the program.

“All of Military OneSource services are completely free for service members and their families,” she said. “We want them to know that they can access Military OneSource via the call center (at 800-342-9647) or the website, 24/7, no matter where they live or serve,” she said.

Those eligible for Military OneSource resources include active duty service members, National Guardsmen and reservists, new veterans, military families and survivors. Slaton recommends checking out the website for further information on resources and eligibility.

For more information, visit [militaryone-source.mil](http://militaryone-source.mil).

# CSP prepares graduates for civilian employment

Story and photo by  
**KRISTEN WONG**  
Contributing Writer

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICK-AM — Soldiers preparing to re-enter the civilian sector graduated from the Career Skills Program (CSP), Dec. 1, in a ceremony at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, here, at Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

These nine Soldiers, from various units, took a 12-weekslong course with the Concrete Preservation Institute (CPI). The participants learned about concrete construction, repair and other aspects of the concrete industry.

They spent a lot of time doing hands-on activities, as well as a project involving repairing concrete at the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s Pet Kennels in Halawa Valley.

The students attended at least one field trip per week to a cement distribution plant or construction site.

“We go to different facets of the industry to help the students get a well-rounded idea of what each facet contributes to the industry,” said Steven Aguilar, program and safety manager at CPI.

Staff Sgt. Corey Paulowske, a field artillery fire finder radar operator with 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, is one of the nine graduates. He heard about CSP through a brief.

“Construction management was definitely an interest of mine,” he said, “so I thought working with concrete learning about concrete preservation would be a good opportunity.

“I didn’t know really anything about the concrete process coming into this,



**Graduates of the Concrete Preservation Institute Field School pose for a photo with Steven Aguilar (left), program and safety manager at CPI; Tanya Komas (second from left), president and CEO of CPI; and Scott Burghardt (right), vice president and director of operations at CPI, before a ceremony at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, Dec. 1.**

and now I’m leaving with a bunch of knowledge about concrete (American Concrete Institute) level one certification in concrete testing, as well as (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) certification,” he added. “This will probably open up quite a few doors.”

Sgt. Joel Stuemke, a heavy equipment operator with 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Bde., 8th Theater Sustainment Command, said he had a background in construction with his unit, but not in concrete.

“My overall experience was wonderful,” he said. I’m very happy with my experience.”

Stuemke said the more people get involved, the more effective the program

can be for Soldiers leaving the military.

Col. Stephen E. Dawson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa C. Piette-Edwards, the garrison’s senior enlisted adviser, were in attendance. Dawson praised the graduates for their efforts and thanked CPI for its support.

“This is actually one of the more popular and successful career skills programs in the Army,” he said. “All of you make that happen.”

There are annually about two or three CSP classes. In 2014, Department of Defense Instruction 1322.29 authorized service members to train for employment, including participating in CSP.

To be eligible for the CSP, service mem-

bers must first attend the required Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program workshop. They must also be leaving the Army within 180 days and be honorably discharged.

Though service members typically join CSP classes within 50 miles of their duty station, commanders may authorize permissive temporary duty for CSP classes in farther locations.

Tanya Tygi, the CSP installation administrator, Soldier for Life Program, US-AG-HI, said that unemployment among veterans is an ongoing issue, and the CSP, though not mandatory, is beneficial for service members getting out of the military.

“Some Soldiers exit the military with little to no civilian education and others with combat arms background, which doesn’t necessarily correlate with the desire to work in HR,” Tygi said.

“This program offers an opportunity for Soldiers to try their hand at jobs within their current industry or completely different career fields.

Through the CSP, not only do they gain industry experience, but they are also offered employment opportunities through the organizations that they intern with or their affiliated partners.”

## More Online

For more information, please visit <https://www.army.mil/stand-to/2017-07-13> or <https://imcom.army.mil/Organization/G1Personnel/CareerSkillsProgram.aspx>. There is a CSP Portal at the second link, which is CAC-enabled and has more specific information.

## Cybersecurity: LHS aims for ’18 finals

CONTINUED FROM A-3

dents, they are only going to go so far, and the 782nd will take these kids as far as they want to go.”

Cadet Tyler McWilliams is a 10th grader at Leilehua High School and a second-year CyberPatriot team member. For him, CyberPatriot has shown him cybersecuri-

ty is what he plans on studying in college.

“CyberPatriot is a way for me to get accepted into colleges. Also, it looks good on resumes,” said McWilliams. “Plus, it’s a lot of fun with the people you get to meet and hang out with.”

Spc. Evan Wittman, from Detachment Hawaii, is the lead CyberPatriot mentor for the Leilehua Mules (the school’s official mascot). Wittman volunteers because he wishes he had had this opportunity when he was in high school.

“I really enjoy coming in. The kids are excited to learn; the kids are here for a reason,” said Wittman. “They’re not here to

waste time. They enjoy what they do, and it gives me a sense of purpose for where I am in my career right now.”

Wittman said they teach cybersecurity from the ground level and build their way up.

“We start with the initial foundational information – basic networking, basic protocols, port assignments – what looks right on a system,” said Wittman. “We teach them that baseline and then we move forward into more in-depth topics of networking.

“We spring into VLANs (Virtual Local Area Networks); we go into different types

of routing protocols, OSPF (Open Shortest Path First). Later on, we’ll do BGP (Border Gateway Protocol), Windows and UNIX,” he added.

“We start showing them how to identify threats on their system – so different types of malware, either very basic script kiddie malware or something a little bit more advanced.”

The team’s goal is to make the CyberPatriot X National Finals in April 2018 for the fourth time in seven years.

It’s more than a competition; CyberPatriot is cybersecurity, important to national security.



# IRS gives seven steps to follow for safety’s sake

**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**  
News Release

WASHINGTON — During the online holiday shopping season, the IRS, state tax agencies and the tax industry remind people to be vigilant with their personal information.

While shopping for gifts, criminals are shopping for credit card numbers, financial account information, Social Security numbers and other sensitive data that could help them file a fraudulent tax return.

Anyone who has an online presence should take a few simple steps that could go a long way to protecting their identity and personal information.

The Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and the tax community – partners in the Security Summit – marked “National Tax Security Awareness Week” (Nov. 27-Dec. 1) with a series of reminders to taxpayers and tax professionals.

Cybercriminals seek to turn stolen data into quick cash, either by draining financial accounts, charging credit cards, creating new credit accounts or even using stolen identities to file a fraudulent tax return for a refund.

Here are seven steps to help with on-line safety and protecting tax returns and refunds in 2018:

**1) Shop at familiar online retailers.**

Generally, sites using the “s” designation in “https” at the start of the URL are secure. Look for the “lock” icon in the browser’s URL bar. But remember, even bad actors may obtain a security certificate, so the “s” may not vouch for the site’s legitimacy.

**2) Avoid unprotected Wi-Fi.** Beware purchases at unfamiliar sites or clicks on links from pop-up ads. Unprotected public Wi-Fi hotspots also may allow thieves to view transactions. Do not engage in online financial transactions if using unprotected public Wi-Fi.

**3) Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails** that pose as a trusted source, such as those from financial institutions or the IRS. These emails may suggest a password is expiring or an account update is needed. The criminal’s goal is to entice users to open a link or attachment. The link may take users to a fake website that will steal usernames and passwords. An attachment may download malware that tracks keystrokes.

**4) Keep a clean machine.** This applies to all devices: computers, phones and tablets. Use security software to protect against malware that may steal data and viruses that may damage files. Set it to update automatically so that it always has the latest security defenses. Make sure firewalls and browser defenses are

always active. Avoid “free” security scans or pop-up advertisements for security software.

**5) Use passwords that are strong, long and unique.** Experts suggest a minimum of 10 characters, but longer is better. Avoid using a specific word; longer phrases are better. Use a combination of letters, numbers and special characters. Use a different password for each account. Use a password manager, if necessary.

**6) Use multi-factor authentication.** Some financial institutions, email providers and social media sites allow users to set accounts for multi-factor authentication, meaning users may need a security code, usually sent as a text to a mobile phone, in addition to usernames and passwords. For added protection, some financial institutions also will send email or text alerts when there is a withdrawal or change to the account. Generally, users can check account profiles at these locations to see what added protections may be available.

**7) Encrypt and password-protect sensitive data.** If keeping financial records, tax returns or any personally identifiable information on computers, this data should be encrypted and protected by a strong password. Also, back-up important data to an external source, such


as an external hard drive. And, when disposing of computers, mobile phones or tablets, make sure to wipe the hard drive of all information before trashing.

There are also a few additional steps people can take a few times a year to make sure they have not become an identity theft victim.

- Receive a free credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus once a year. Check it to make sure there are no unfamiliar credit changes.
- Create a “My Social Security” account online with the Social Security Administration. There, users can see how much income is attributed to their SSN. This can help determine if someone else is using the SSN for employment purposes.

The IRS, state tax agencies and the tax industry are committed to working together to fight against tax-related identity theft and to protect taxpayers. But the Security Summit needs help. People can take steps to protect themselves online.

**More Online**  
Visit the “Taxes. Security. Together.” awareness campaign at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/taxes-security-together> to see what can be done.



**8 / Friday**  
**Holiday Ruck March**  
— Now through Dec. 14, the 95th Engineer Company, 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command is collecting donations of unwrapped toys for its Holiday Ruck and Toy Drive.

Bring donations to the 95th Eng. Co. at 888 Menoher Road, Schofield Barracks, or bring donations directly to the ruck march on Dec. 15. The event begins at 6:30 a.m. and sup-



Courtesy photo

**95th Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC**  
**Soldiers ruck with toy donations in 2016.**

ports Hawaii’s Institute for Human Services.

Families are welcome to join the 2.8-mile march to the Schofield Barracks Christmas Tree on General Loop and back. They are encouraged to dress in holiday cheer (Santa hats, lights, reindeer antlers, etc.).

The dress code for Soldiers is the summer physical training uniform with boots, plus holiday acces-

sories and decorated ruck sacks.

**9 / Saturday**  
**Ewa Field** — The 2017 Annual Commemoration of Ewa Field begins at 9 a.m. The field is makai of Pride Baseball Field at 4365 Roosevelt Ave. in Kapolei. The gate opens at 8 a.m. to the public.

Support Ewa Field becoming part of the World War II National Monu-

ment, creating a new national and international visitor attraction in West Oahu.

**January**  
**16 / Tuesday**  
**Dental Clinic** — According to Dental Health Activity-Hawaii, the Tripler Dental Clinic is moving to Bldg. 339 on Montgomery Road, Fort Shafter. Effective Jan. 16, all dental care will be located at the new Shafter dental clinic; however, the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery clinic will remain at Tripler.

Directions to new clinic: Travel south on Pierce Road, past the PX on Fort Shafter. Turn right on Montgomery Drive. The clinic and parking lot will be on the left.



(Note: Times and locations of outages are a best guess. Field conditions may extend the locations and time needed.)

**December**  
**11 / Monday**  
**Wright Avenue** — Partial road closures will be in effect at Wright Avenue on Wheeler Army Airfield between Langley Loop and Elleman Road for curb inlet repairs

at seven locations. The partial road closures are Dec. 11-Feb. 2, 2018, from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**16 / Saturday**  
**Outage** — Wheeler’s Wiliwili Housing Area will experience an electrical outage from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. The outage is required to support a 25th Combat Aviation Brigade project and provide a backup feed for housing.

**Ongoing**  
**Airdrome Road** — David Boland, Inc. will be conducting one-lane road closures through Dec. 31 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, along Airdrome Road on WAAF, from the

new fueling facility to the flight simulator. Crews will be performing asphalt overlaying, installing a new bypass road for fuel offload facilities and striping new pavements.

**Parking Closure** — The SB Dental Clinic parking lot will be closed for construction through Dec. 18. The clinic apologizes for this inconvenience. Patients should show up 15 minutes earlier for appointments. Parking can be found adjacent to the Exchange and behind the Dental Clinic.

**Ganhan Road** — This road on Wheeler Army Airfield adjacent to Bldg. 107 will be closed at the Wright Avenue entrance throughout construction,

through Dec. 18.

**Tripler Army Medical Center** — A complete road closure will occur at the unnamed road beside Krukowski Road near Bldg. 161 for utility and roadwork. Through Dec. 18, the road will be closed and barricaded. Use the Krukowski Road portion of the main Tripler loop during this time.

This closure will only affect the roadway and area in front of the substation. Parking for Bldgs. 141, 145, 147, 153, etc., will remain open as usual.

**Trimble Road** — A 24-hour closure continues on Trimble between Carpenter to Beaver and Hewitt to Cadet Sheridan for pavement repairs until Dec. 29.



December 8, 2017

## Ralston Field

## CASTLE

## makeover



Photo illustration by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications

With help from DPW, engineers from the 523rd Eng. Co. spend about two months restoring the Engineer Castle on Ralston Field. Shown above are Warrant Officer Eric Ross, left, a construction engineering technician, and Spc. Elijah Keel, a carpentry and masonry specialist.

# Engineers, DPW team up to restore landmark

**KAREN A. IWAMOTO**  
Staff Writer

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — The Engineer Castle on Ralston Field, here, received a facelift recently thanks to a partnership between the 523rd Engineer Company, 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Directorate of Public Works.

About 25 Soldiers and family members from the 523rd Eng. Co. pressure-washed, primed and repainted the castle during their off-duty and weekend hours over an approximately two-month period. They also completed some landscaping in the surrounding area. DPW provided the supplies, including pressure washers, primer, paint and ladders, as well as some guidance on how to complete the work successfully.

"It was a point of pride," said Sgt. 1st Class Shayne Payne. "We didn't want it to (remain in a state of disrepair). Even though it wasn't our unit that originally built the castle, it was something built by engineers, and restoring it brings a sense of pride to all engineers."

Capt. Thomas Weber agreed, adding that the renovations also serve to lift the morale of Soldiers and family members stationed at Schofield Barracks.

"The 130th Eng. Bde. uses the castle as a destination point to run to during Monday Ability Group Runs," he said. "Hopefully, it will give the Soldiers some pride seeing the only castle on Schofield Barracks looks professional. Also, the community living on Schofield Barracks



Photo by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications  
**Staff Sgt. Vladimil Sanjurjo, a technical engineer with 523rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., and military spouse Melody Ross apply primer.**

(will) not have to look at an eyesore."

Kevin Rost, facilities manager and construction estimator for DPW's Operation and Maintenance Division praised their work.

"I think they did an exceptional job in doing this, in addition to the training rotation they had going on," he said. "For them to donate their time to this is what made it happen. We (at DPW) would never have been able to get to this project with our current staffing levels."

He added, "I really like working with Soldiers because I feel like they get a lot out of pride from sustaining something that their predecessors built, and that comes through in the work."

This venture is not the first time the 523rd Eng. Co. has teamed up with DPW on an improvement project. They recently poured a sidewalk along Beaver Road to connect two residential neigh-

borhoods on Schofield Barracks. In addition to giving back to the community, they earned valuable military occupation specialty training through that project.

## History of the Engineer Castle

According to a sign at the site of the castle on Ralston Field, it was constructed by elements of the 3rd Eng. Combat Regiment between 1938-1941, and B Company of the 65th Eng. Bn. repainted and restored it in 2001.

The castle overlooks a softball diamond and has concrete benches that serve as seating during games. The rest of the field is used by Soldiers and family members for exercise and recreation.

The castle is the logo of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The USACE castle logo is typically a white three-towered castle set on a red background, and it was formally adopted by the Army as insignia in the early 1900s.

## 'Self-help' projects

The castle improvement project is what is known as a command "self-help" project, said Rost, who served as the liaison between the engineers and DPW. Any unit interested in taking on a large-scale improvement project may contact a DPW facilities manager who will then help the unit through the process, which includes filling out the proper paperwork, getting the correct supplies and ensuring that the work is done correctly and in compliance with regulations. Rost said these steps are necessary when dealing with projects on government property.

DPW also runs a Self-Help Store on Schofield Barracks that issues paint, light bulbs, glue, small tools and other supplies that can be used for small, individual projects.

## DPW Facility Managers

Contact your area's DPW facility manager before undertaking work on USAG-HI property:

•**USAG-HI South** (Fort Shafter, Aliamanu Military Reservation, Tripler Medical Center, Fort DeRussy)  
Gary Childress, 438-1102  
•**USAG-HI North** (Wheeler Army Airfield, 8th Theater Sustainment Command)

Keith Klonower, 656-8241  
•**USAG-HI North** (Schofield Barracks, Helemano Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, Makua Training Area)  
Kevin Rost, 656-8161

## DPW Self-Help Store

Bldg. 2600 (near Foote Gate entrance)

Schofield Barracks  
655-1255

This store issues paint, light bulbs and other supplies to Soldiers looking to make small, individual repairs or improvements. For larger projects that entail more personnel and time, unit leaders should contact their DPW facility manager for assistance.





## Briefs

8 / Friday

**Right Arm Night** — Enjoy a night of com-radery at FS Hale Ikena. Food and beverages available for purchase, 5 p.m. Call 438-1974.

13 / Wednesday

**ACS Holiday Wonderland** — Come and enjoy the ACS open house on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. ACS is located in Bldg. 2091 on Kolekole Avenue, SB.

15 / Friday

**“Star Wars” 3D Movie Night** — A BOSS event. Meet at Olino by Consolidated Kapolei. Cost is \$15 per person, 7 p.m. BOSS office located at 1470 Foote St., Bldg. 589, SB. Call 655-5698 or 352-223-6370.

16 / Saturday

**Winter Wonderland** — Celebrate the holiday season with FMWR on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the AMR Community Center.

The day begins with Breakfast with Santa at the AMR Gym at 8 a.m. Tickets are required; cost is \$18 for adults, \$9 for keiki 5-11 years old, and free for keiki 4 and under. Call Leisure Travel Service at 438-1985 or 655-9971.

Free activities begin at 9 a.m. with the snow zone, pictures with Santa, games, live bands and more. Food booths and other activities will be cash only. Call 655-0113. Visit hiMWR.com.

**BOSS Camping at Bellows** — Register at SB Tropics Recreation Center front desk. BOSS office is located at 1470 Foote St., Bldg. 589. Call 655-5698 or 352-223-6370

19 / Tuesday

**FS Open Play Pick-Up Basketball** — Play 5-on-5 full court basketball. Walk-in and sign up on the same day and time at 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays, Dec. 19, 21, 26 & 28, or at FS PFC, 170 Chapplear Road, Bldg. 665. Call 438-1152.

20 / Wednesday

**Santa Visit** — A visit from Santa will bring Christmas joy to you and your little ones. Come visit with Santa and take pictures at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Dec. 20, at the FS Library, 181 Chapplear Road, Bldg. 650. Call 438-9521.

23 / Saturday

**White Plains Beach BBQ, Surfing & Beach Day** — Board rental is \$5 an hour, per person, for noon event. Call or sign-up at SB Tropics.

27 / Wednesday

**Christmas Gift Exchange** — Bring a gift

## AT TROPICS

FREE HOLIDAY DINNER

CASINO GAMES

Single Soldier

HOLIDAY DINNER

DECEMBER 14

5:00 pm

PRIZE GIVEAWAY

LIVE DJ

CALLING ALL SINGLE SOLDIERS AND GEOGRAPHICAL BACHELORS!

The BOSS Program in conjunction with Family and MWR, invite you to a night filled with fun games, laughter and delicious food.

Tropics Recreation Center

Foote Ave, Bldg. 589 | Schofield Barracks

655-5698 | HIMWR.COM

This sponsorship does not constitute DoD, Army or Federal Government endorsement.

Courtesy graphic

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Single Soldier Holiday Dinner invites all single soldiers and geographic bachelors to the Tropics Recreation Center, Bldg. 589, Foote Avenue, here, for this free holiday dinner on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m. A live DJ, casino games and a prize giveaway await participants. Call 655-5698.**

for \$50 or less. Plus enjoy BOSS giveaways. Held at SB Tropics Recreation Center on Dec. 27 at 1 p.m.

## January

5 / Friday

**Intramural Basketball Registration** — Jan. 5, 2018, is the registration deadline to play in the 2018 Army Hawaii Intramural Men’s and Women’s Basketball Company Level League. Games will be played at Martine PFC and FS PFC.

Open to company, battery, troop detachment level active duty Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units within the geographical limits of Hawaii (one team only).

Season runs Jan. 22-March 30, 2018. Call 655-9650/9914.

**Intramural Battalion Level Soccer** — Registration deadline is Jan. 5, 2018, to play in the 2018 Army Hawaii Intramural Men’s and Women’s Battalion Level Soccer League. Games will be played at Stoneman Ath-

letic Complex, FS Takata Field and TAMC Center Ball Field.

Open to Army active duty, USAR and Army National Guard battalions within the geographical limits of Hawaii (one team only).

Season runs from Jan. 22-March 23, 2018. Call 655-9650/9914.

## Ongoing

**9-Ball Pool Tournament at Tropics** — Join us every Thursday at 6 p.m. for a 9-ball single elimination and sudden death tournament at SB Tropics. Call 655-5698.

**Xbox Challenge NBA 2K17** — Every Wednesday at 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 655-5698.

**Texas Hold’em Poker** — Play Texas Hold’em every Thursday at SB Tropics at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Cost is \$25. MWR Bucks to 1st place. Awarded the last Thursday of each month. Call 655-5698.

**Sand Volleyball and Dodgeball** — Every Tuesday at SB Tropics from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

## community Calendar

Send announcements a week prior to publication to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

8 / Friday

**Polynesian Cultural Center** — Christmas at the Hukilau Marketplace runs now through Dec. 23 at the PCC and offers selfies with Santa, nightly Christmas entertainment and train rides for keiki, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, through Dec. 16, and Mondays-Saturdays, Dec. 18-23.

The Winter Wonderland Snow Days are set for Dec. 8 and 22. Visit [www.hukilaumarketplace.com](http://www.hukilaumarketplace.com) or call 293-3333.

**Historic Hawaii Foundation** — Take a tour of Steve McGarrett’s home on the hit TV series “Hawaii Five-O,” 5:30-8 p.m. The historic Bayer Estate in Aina Haina is a 1936 architecturally significant design. Tickets are required (\$65) and may be purchased online at <https://bayerestateopenhouse.eventbrite.com>.

9 / Saturday

**SB Kolekole Hiking Trail** — Hiking trail will be closed to

hikers Saturday and Sunday, this weekend, due to live-fire training.

**Ewa Field Battle Commemoration** — The 10th annual Ewa Field Battlefield Commemoration, 9 a.m., remembers those killed on Dec. 7, 1941, at Ewa Field, Ewa Plantation Villages and the Ewa Battlefield area of West Oahu at the site of the former Navy and Marine Corps airbase known as Ewa Field. It’s located at 4365 Roosevelt Ave. in Kapolei. Organized by the American Veterans Hawaii; visit <https://amvets-hawaii.org>.

**Snow Day at Pearl Highlands** — Snow Days, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., on the top level of Pearl Highlands Center features 40 tons of snow, games, skill challenges, appearances by local radio celebrities. Visit [pearlhighlandscenter.com](http://pearlhighlandscenter.com).

**Kapolei City Lights** — West O’ahu Electric Light Parade on Kapolei Parkway kicks off the holiday season with a street festival celebration featuring food trucks and cultural entertainment, 4-9 p.m., at Kapolei Hale, 1000 Ulu’Ohi’a St. Contact the Mayor’s Office of Culture and the Arts at (808)

768-6622.

**Holiday Pops featuring Amy Hanaiali’i** — Saturday, Dec. 9, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall. Enjoy a well-deserved break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays with the Hawai’i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) at its annual Holiday Pops concert, part of its “Music that POPS” series.

See Grammy-nominated vocalist Amy Hanaiali’i, who will fill the stage with song, hula and holiday joy as she joins the HSO for the first time singing songs from her Na Hoku award-winning Christmas album.

For details, visit [tickets.hawaiisymphonyorchestra.org](http://hawaiisymphonyorchestra.org).

**USO Wet’n’Wild** — Free day at Wet’n’Wild day, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., for military members and their dependents. Park will be closed to the general public. Requires valid military ID for all guests ages 11 and older. No tailgating, outside food, drinks or alcohol. Non-military, non-dependent sponsored guests pay \$29.99.

15 / Friday

**The Nutcracker** — Four performances, Friday-Sunday, Blaisdell Concert Hall. Celebrate the holidays with Ballet Hawaii’s Nutcracker presented with a unique Hawaiian historical theme. Enjoy Tchaikovsky’s

classic ballet reinterpreted and set in the 1858 Kingdom of Hawaii. Tickets range from \$39-\$120.

Tickets available by phone at 800-745-3000 or at the Blaisdell Box Office (open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) or online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

16 / Saturday

**SB Kolekole Hiking Trail** — Hiking trail will be open to hikers Saturday and Sunday, this weekend.

**Wreaths Across America-Punchbowl** — Saturday, Dec. 16, 8-11 a.m., at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, its mission is to “Remember, Honor and Teach,” carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies. Help is needed with donations (wreaths cost \$15 to put on a marker in Punchbowl) and volunteers.

On Dec. 16, help lay out wreaths. This event is open to the public. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wreaths-across-america-punchbowl-tickets-36206933914?aff=efbevent>.

18 / Monday

**HMR Parade** — Enjoy the holiday parade on HMR at 5:30 p.m. Get route details from the Community Center.

## Worship Services

Additional religious services, children’s programs, educational services and contact information can be found at <https://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/rso/USARHAW%20Chapel%20Services.pdf>.

AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel  
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel  
HMR: Helemano Chapel  
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor  
SC: Soldiers Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel  
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

### Buddhist Services

•First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD  
•Last Wednesday, 6 p.m. at MPC

### Catholic Mass

•Monday-Wednesday, 11:45 a.m. at Soldiers Chapel  
•Thursday, 11:45 a.m. at AMR  
•Wednesday, 5 p.m. at MPC  
•Saturday, 5 p.m. at TAMC  
•Sunday services: -8:30 a.m. at AMR -10:30 a.m. at MPC -11 a.m. at TAMC

### Gospel Worship

•Sunday, noon at MPC  
•Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

### Islamic

•Friday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR (Call 477-7647)

### Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)

•Friday, 7:30 p.m. at PH (Call 473-3971)

### Protestant Worship

•Sunday Services -9 a.m. at MPC (Contemporary) -9 a.m. at FD -9 a.m. at TAMC -10 a.m. at HMR (Contemporary) -10:30 a.m. at AMR (Contemporary) -11 a.m. at WAAF (Contemporary)

## This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater



### Murder On the Orient Express (PG-13)

Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

### Thank You for Your Service (R)

Saturday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.

### A Bad Moms Christmas (R)

Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.



### Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13)

Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m.

Closed Monday through Thursday.

#### Calendar abbreviations

8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command  
25th ID: 25th Infantry Division  
ACS: Army Community Service  
AFAP: Army Family Action Plan  
AFTB: Army Family Team Building  
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation

ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA  
BCT: Brigade Combat Team  
CDC: Child Development Center  
CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services  
EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program  
FCC: Family Child Care  
FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare

and Recreation  
FRG: Family Readiness Group  
FS: Fort Shafter  
HMR: Helemano Military Reservation  
IPC: Island Palm Communities  
PFC: Physical Fitness Center  
SAC: School Age Center  
SB: Schofield Barracks

SKIES: Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills  
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center  
USAG-HI: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii  
USARPAC: U.S. Army-Pacific  
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield



# 2IBCT Gimlets help bring holiday cheer to Waianae

Story and photo by  
**STAFF SGT. DAVID N. BECKSTROM**  
2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

WAIANAE — Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division brought smiles to the community of Waianae passing out candy during the Waianae Coast Holiday Parade, Dec. 2.

This was the 23rd annual parade, hosted by the Waianae Coast Rotary Club and local businesses.

“We look forward to having the military participate in the parade each year,” said retired Lt. Col. Don “Rock” Arakaki, president of the Waianae Coast Rotary Club. “I want to get the military members involved and connected with the community to foster lifelong partnerships and a sense of community.”

The Soldiers of 1-21st Inf., the “Gimlets” and the 25th ID Band participated by doing a color guard with Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Genessa Stone, one of the students in the Waianae High School JROTC, playing holiday music and passing out candy to

keiki who lined Farrington Highway.

“I consider it an honor to be a part of this parade, because it ties not just me, but the military to the community,” said Cpl. Bryan Adams, an assistant team leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-21st Inf. and a member of the color guard for the parade. “We put our all into making this a special day for the attendees of the parade, because this is where we live, this is where we work. These people are our friends, neighbors and colleagues.”

**Community partnership**

2IBCT partners with communities along the Leeward Coast of Oahu, including Waianae, Nanakuli, Mililani and Aiea.

“Being able to build a strong sense of community with the people of Waianae is one of 1-21st Inf.’s goals,” said 2nd Lt. Andrew McMillin, an operations officer with HHC, 1-21st Inf. “We also work with the high schools of the Waianae Coast to foster these relationships across all ages.

“Building trust and cohesion is important in continuing this partnership; it shows that the military isn’t here just for them. We are here for everybody.”



A Soldier with 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 2nd IBCT, 25th ID passes out candy to keiki along the route of the Waianae Coast Holiday Parade in downtown Waianae, Dec. 2.

After the parade, Soldiers of 1-21st Inf. and the 25th ID Band were invited to a community meet-and-greet at the Waianae Mall where local vendors had booths and goods for sale. These Soldiers had the opportunity to interact one-on-

one with the people who attended the parade and expressed their gratitude to each other.

“Throughout the parade, I could feel the aloha that all parties shared for each other,” said McMillin.

# Military Star card now partners with commissaries

**DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY**  
Corporate Communications

FORT LEE, Virginia — The Defense Commissary Agency is rolling out acceptance of the Military Star card in all its stores to offer greater convenience to service members and their families and further strengthen funding of critical military quality of life programs, said Command Chief Master Sgt. Stuart Allison, DeCA senior enlisted adviser.

“Being able to use the Military Star card at the commissary is a big win for shoppers,” Allison said. “Having one convenient payment method specifically for the military community demonstrates the commitment DeCA and the exchanges have for meeting the needs of service members and families in the most cost-effective way possible to maximize the value of each benefit.”



Courtesy photo

**Now active**

The card’s acceptance now expands throughout commissaries worldwide for all branches of service. Benefits of the Military Star card include these:

**Left — Brad McMinn (left), general manager of the Schofield Barracks Commissary; Col. Stephen E. Dawson (center), commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii; and Asia Gilchrist-Fogle, Exchange store manager, share a photo opportunity recently at the commissary.**

- Two points per dollar on purchases and a \$20 gift card after 2,000 points earned.
  - One of the lowest APRs (11.24 percent) among retail-issued cards – no matter the cardholder’s credit score.
  - Fair and flexible terms, such as no annual, late or over-limit fees.
  - 10 percent discount on first day of use, including at the commissary.
  - Reduced interest deployment plan with no payments required for eligible customers.
- Commissaries will accept the card

only as a form of payment, meaning that customers cannot get cash back from the card. Customers will need to visit an Exchange or MyECP.com to apply for a card, as well as make payments and redeem their points on eligible purchases.

While customers can earn reward points on commissary purchases, Star card Rewards gift cards are not redeemable at the commissary.

**Points of Contact**

Customers with further questions about the card should contact the Military Star card Customer Contact Center at 1-877-891-7827 or visit MyECP.com.

Customers can go to <https://commissaries.com/customer-service/faqs> for Star card FAQs.

# Service life provides a different holiday experience lens

I’m grateful that our last tour in the Navy landed us in New England, where the scenery looks like a Currier and Ives dinner plate come to life.

I love the frosty chill in the December air, the smell of cut timber and pine boughs, the feel of warm woolen mittens.

Here, holiday spirit finds me, draws me in and captures me – and I gladly surrender.

But it hasn’t always been this easy. For most military families like ours, frequent moves are an unavoidable part of life. And at some point, Uncle Sam stations you somewhere that looks and feels completely foreign. Since holidays are all about tradition, the absence of those traditions can leave you longing for the holidays you grew up with back home.

**Harkening for home**

I was raised in an idyllic small town in the rolling hills of western Pennsylvania, where Christmas was traditional, classic, just like in the movies. Finding holiday spirit was as easy as waking up in my twin bed with the Kliban Cat sheets, scratching a peephole out of the intricate frost that had formed on the window overnight and staring out at the winter wonderland right outside.



With dissolved candy canes coursing through my veins, I’d grab the parka handed down from my brother and head for the hill behind our house. The kids in our neighborhood would ruthlessly pelt each other with snowballs, eat gritty icicles broken off the gutters and sled down the hill until our numbed cheeks couldn’t feel our running noses.

With a warm sludge of hot cocoa and fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies in my belly, I’d thaw before a roaring fire, staring up at the screw-in lights on our tree. There was one bulb in particular, a transparent magenta one, which seemed to emit pure, saturated hot pink splendor, infinitely refracted by sparkling silver tinsel. I was hypnotized by its magical brilliance and spilled over with anticipation and awe.

Four decades later, I was sitting in a North Florida Starbucks in mid-December feeling the blues. Our family

was stationed at Naval Station Mayport, and despite the fact that the Starbucks manager insisted on setting the central air at a frigid 60-odd degrees, and that I was surrounded by trendy holiday decor, it just didn’t feel like Christmas to me.

After I got my venti latte’s worth of free Wi-Fi, I moped out into the sub-tropical 75-degree Florida winter and headed for my minivan. I didn’t have to put on a coat or scrape any ice off my windshield. I drove back to our base house on roads clear of salt and ash.

At home, I opened the windows to let in the ocean breeze. After walking the dog on the white sand beach that ran along the east side of our housing area, I slumped into a lawn chair in our palm-tree-studded backyard. Woe is me, I thought, and as I worked on my tan, I wallowed shamelessly in self-pity.

Later that week, I was back at Starbucks again. As I sat in the trendy coffee shop buzzing with flip-flop-



festooned and Ray-Ban-bedecked Floridians, I wondered how they could stand it.

Suddenly, I heard the ring of the cash register and realized that it reminded me of jingle bells. I took notice of the lovely cranberry red hue of the Florida Seminoles T-shirt worn by the man sitting next to me.

I sipped my latte and detected a hint of cinnamon. And then, I looked up at the trendy pendant light hanging overhead and was drawn in by the pure, saturated blue of its glowing cobalt shade. I was mesmerized.

“Merry Christmas,” the man in the cranberry Seminoles shirt uttered as he got up from our shared table to leave, snapping me out of my hypnotic gaze.

In that moment, I realized that holiday spirit comes in all shapes, sizes, colors, locations and climates, but I had been too clouded by my own narrow expectations to see it.

“Merry Christmas to you, too!” I eagerly replied to the festive gentleman, relieved that I had finally seen the light.



# TAMC neonatal unit reunites with preemies, parents

Story and photos by  
**LEANNE THOMAS**  
Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Back by popular demand, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Tripler Army Medical Center, here, hosted the eighth annual NICU Graduate Reunion, Dec. 3, to reunite with those who, at one time or another, have called the Tripler NICU a second home.

A special team of NICU nurse volunteers organized this year’s bash to include a live musical performance and a surprise visit from Santa with students from Leilehua High School dressed as elves to help spread holiday cheer.

More than 180 attendees, counting parents and siblings, filled the party room for a chance to reunite with the nurse who took special care of their newborns during their NICU journey.

“It gives the nurses an opportunity to visit with the families and see how their graduates have grown,” said Patricia Wilhelm, Tripler NICU head nurse.

**Triplets return**

Wilhelm greeted many families during the day’s festivities and even remembered the Galbreath family who received care at the Tripler NICU for their newborn babies nine years ago.

Retired Air Force Maj. Jarrard Galbreath was assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam when his wife Deanna gave birth to their set of triplet girls at the medical center. The parents easily recalled their NICU experience as if it were yesterday.

“One reason why we decided to stay in Hawaii after retirement was due to the staff at Tripler, their attention to care, and because of the continuity of care we received at Tripler,” said retired Maj. Galbreath.

During the summer of 2008, the bed capacity at Tripler’s NICU was at a 100 percent occupancy rate. Kaiser Permanente and Kapiolani Medical Center were also full, and the new parents were unsure where they would receive the specialized medical care they needed for their preemies.

Deanna Galbreath explained, “The Tripler NICU worked everything out, so we could stay here. They actually moved the babies from the NICU to the PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit), so that they could accommodate these three babies. We were so happy to be able to stay here,” she said.

At 32 weeks and six days, the new parents were finally able to return home with their newborns.

Like many families, the Galbreath’s NICU journey was a memorable experience they will always share together and with the nurses who provide special care to the tiniest of patients in the hospital.

“Experiencing a traumatic event together, it’s a very bonding experience,” said Lorraine Ortega, a registered nurse at Tripler’s NICU. “And they (the parents) lean on us, you know.”

“But I’m telling you, the parents are the real heroes,” Ortega added. “The moms and the dads are the real heroes because they’re in the trenches for their babies for life, 24/7. They are proactive for their children. They get therapy for their children. They represent their children to society ... so, they’re the real heroes, the real warriors, no doubt. They are fighting the good fight!”



**Tahney Meek and daughter Reagan Meek (left) reunite with Lynne Dela Cruz, registered nurse at TAMC’s NICU, on Dec. 3 during the 8th annual NICU Grad Reunion.**



**Jayla (left), Jaslyn (center) and Jaianna (right) Galbreath were the oldest set of triplets to attend the 8th annual NICU Graduate Reunion at TAMC on Dec. 3 with their parents Deanna Galbreath and retired Air Force Maj. Jarrad Galbreath.**

TAMC

TIP

## Safe Toys & Gifts Month



No one chooses gifts with the intent to harm, but some popular children’s toys can cause serious injuries.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly 252,000 toy-related injuries were treated in emergency rooms in 2014, and almost half of those injuries affected the head or face. In fact, about 1 in 10 children’s eye injuries treated in the ER trace back to toys.

Unfortunately, most of these injuries happen to children under age 15, so here are some important reminders :

- Avoid purchasing toys with sharp, protruding or projectile parts.
- Make sure children have appropriate supervision when playing with potentially hazardous toys or games that could cause an eye injury.
- Along with sports equipment, give children the appropriate protective eyewear with polycarbonate lenses. Check with your eye doctor to learn about protective gear recommended for your child’s sport.
- Keep toys that are made for older children away from younger children.
- If your child experiences an eye injury from a toy, seek immediate medical attention from an ophthalmologist, i.e., an eye medical doctor.